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## Identical letters dated 29 July 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

After hundreds of armed terrorists had taken control the Khan Asal area, in order to tighten the siege of Aleppo and prevent food and medicine from reaching that city, a terrorist group calling itself Liwa Ansar al Khilafah (Supporters of the Caliphate Brigade) committed a horrifying mass murder in Khan Asal city. Dozens of civilians and military personnel were killed in the attack, which bears the hallmarks of an Al-Qaida operation. The terrorists mutilated some victims' bodies and tossed them into a large pit and set fire to the bodies of others.

The events that occurred in Khan Asal over the past few days have revealed the involvement of certain neighbouring States in the provision of military, material and logistical support to the armed terrorist groups. The involvement of those States is such that they are giving orders to attack specific sites and perpetrate massacres, with a view to achieving their goal of destabilizing Syria.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that certain States that are permanent members of the Security Council continue to apply double standards with regard to counter-terrorism by preventing the Council from condemning the numerous terrorist crimes that have been committed in Syria by takfirist organizations associated with Al-Qaida, the most recent of which was the terrorist bombing that occurred in Jaramana, Rif Dimashq, on 25 July 2013. Those States are also acting as partners to the terrorists through their direct involvement in providing armed terrorist groups with weapons, materiel and political cover, in violation of their responsibility as permanent members of the Council to maintain international peace and security. All of this raises many questions regarding those States' commitment to combating terrorism and their adherence to Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism. The position taken by those States and their allies in the region is contrary to the international consensus on



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counter-terrorism and encourages the commission of more terrorist crimes against Syrians. It also impedes all international efforts to find a political solution to the crisis through a dialogue among Syrians that respects their choices and will help stop the violence and combat the terrorism of the extremist, takfirist groups.

In view of this horrific massacre, which followed a series of attacks in Jisr al-Shughur in Idlib, the village of Hatlah in Dayr al-Zawr and other locations, the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the international community, in particular the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, to take serious and responsible steps to counter the terrorism being waged against Syria by takfirist gangs that are ideologically and organizationally linked to Al-Qaida. It further calls on the international community to uncover the facts behind this appalling mass murder and the motive for it, while eschewing hypocrisy and double standards.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105 on measures to eliminate international terrorism, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative